plate is freely allowed. The customs duty on import of tin plate has been reduced from 50% to 40 per cent in the Budget of 1995-96.

**Setting up of steel ship breaking and casting units in West Bengal**

4182. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Metal Scrap Trading Corporation (MSTC) is considering to set up steel ship breaking and casting units in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether land have been acquired for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (d) MSTC Limited has reported that it is considering setting up steel, ship-breaking and casting units in West Bengal. Since these proposals are at a preliminary stage, no land has been acquired.

**New Iron ore policy**

4183. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL. Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item published in the 'Financial Express', New Delhi dated 14.3.95 udner the caption "Government rider on mining rights to foreign companies";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the new iron ore policy has been finalised and approved by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Grant of mining leases for various minerals including iron ore is regulated by the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957. The provisions of the Act have recently been amended to permit grant of mining leases to Indian nationals or any company registered in India.

(c) No, Sir.

**Release of materials to firms/traders by Kalamboli Branch of SAIL**

4184. SHRI KANAKSINH MOHANSINH MANGROLA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kalamboli Branch, Bombay of the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) have released material to firms/traders in the month of March, 1995;

(b) if so, what are the details of firms who have applied for the material under Post Dated Cheque Scheme (PDC Scheme) and against cash payments/Bank guarantees;

(c) what are the names of the firms who were given material under the above two categories;

(d) whether some traders/firms were refused materials on cash payment and others were given on credit and discounted rates causing loss to SAIL; and

(e) if so, whether Government propose to enquire into the matter and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir. Kalamboli Branch, Bombay of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), has sold steel materials to different customers, including trade, during the month of March, 1995.